Luxembourgish

Luxembourgish, **Luxemburgish**[3] (/ˈlʌksəmbɜːrɡɪʃ/ *LUK-səm-bur-gish*),[3] **Letzeburgesch**[4] (/ˌlɛts(ə)bɜːrˈɡɛʃ/ *LETS(-ə)-bur-GESH* or /ˈlɛts(ə)bɜːrɡɪʃ/ *LETS(-ə)-bur-gish*)[4] (Luxembourgish: *Lëtzebuergesch*), or **Luxembourgian**[5] is a West Germanic language that is spoken mainly in Luxembourg. About 390,000 people speak Luxembourgish worldwide.[1]

As a standard form of the Moselle Franconian language, Luxembourgish has similarities with other varieties of High German and the wider group of West Germanic languages. The status of Luxembourgish as an official language in Luxembourg and the existence there of a regulatory body,[6] have removed Luxembourgish, at least in part, from the domain of Standard German, its traditional *Dachsprache*.

Contents

Luxembourgish	
Lëtzebuergesch	
Pronunciation	[ˈlətsəbuə̯jəʃ] (🔊 listen)
Native to	Luxembourg; Saarland and north-west Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany; Arelerland and Saint-Vith district, Belgium; Moselle department, France
Region	Western Europe
Native speakers	c. 390,000 (2010)[1]

Language family	Indo-European
	■ Germanic
	  ■ West Germanic
	   ■ Irminonic
	    ■ High German
	     ■ West Central German
	      ■ Central Franconian
	       ■ Moselle Franconian
	        ■ **Luxembourgish**

Writing system	Latin (Luxembourgish alphabet) Luxembourgish Braille
Official status	
Official language in	🇱🇺 Luxembourg
Recognised minority language in	🇧🇪 Belgium (recognised by the French Community of Belgium)
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	lb (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=lb)
ISO 639-2	ltz (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=265)

ISO 639-3	`ltz`
Glottolog	`luxe1241` (http://glottol og.org/resource/languoi d/id/luxe1241)[2]
Linguasphere	`52-ACB-db`

The area where Luxembourgish (pale indigo) and other dialects of Moselle Franconian (medium indigo) are spoken. The internal isogloss for words meaning "of", i.e. *op* and *of* is also shown (Standard German: *auf*).

Language family

Luxembourgish belongs to the West Central German group of High German languages and is the primary example of a Moselle Franconian language.

Usage

Luxembourgish is the national language of Luxembourg and one of three administrative languages, alongside French and German.[7][8]

In Luxembourg, 50.9% of citizens can speak Luxembourgish. Luxembourgish is also spoken in the Arelerland region of Belgium (part of the Province of Luxembourg) and in small parts of Lorraine in France.

In the German Eifel and Hunsrück regions, similar local Moselle Franconian dialects of German are spoken. The language is also spoken by a few descendants of Luxembourg immigrants in the United States and Canada.

Other Moselle Franconian dialects are spoken by ethnic Germans long settled in Transylvania, Romania (Siebenbürgen).

Moselle Franconian dialects outside the Luxembourg state border tend to have far fewer French loan words, and these mostly remain from the French Revolution.

Varieties

There are several distinct dialect forms of Luxembourgish including Areler (from Arlon), Eechternoacher (Echternach), Kliärrwer (Clervaux), Miseler (Moselle), Stater (Luxembourg), Veiner (Vianden), Minetter (Southern Luxembourg) and Weelzer (Wiltz). Further small vocabulary differences may be seen even between small villages.

Increasing mobility of the population and the dissemination of the language through mass media such as radio and television are leading to a gradual standardisation towards a "Standard Luxembourgish" through the process of koineization.[9]

Surrounding languages

There is no distinct geographic boundary between the use of Luxembourgish and the use of other closely related High German dialects (for example Lorraine Franconian); it instead forms a dialect continuum of gradual change.

Spoken Luxembourgish is relatively hard to understand for speakers of German who are generally not familiar with Moselle Franconian dialects (or at least other West Central German dialects). However, they can usually read the language to some degree. For those Germans familiar with Moselle Franconian dialects, it is relatively

easy to understand and speak Luxembourgish as far as the everyday vocabulary is concerned.[9] However, the large number of French loanwords in Luxembourgish may hamper communication about certain topics, or with certain speakers (who use many French loanwords).

There is no intelligibility between Luxembourgish and French or any of the Romance dialects spoken in the adjacent parts of Belgium and France.[9]

Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, President of the Christian Social People's Party of Luxembourg 1995–2003, was active in promoting the language beyond Luxembourg's borders.

Written Luxembourgish

Standardisation

A number of proposals for standardising the orthography of Luxembourgish can be documented, going back to the middle of the 19th century. There was no officially recognised system, however, until the adoption of the "OLO" (*ofizjel lezebuurjer ortografi*) on 5 June 1946.[10] This orthography provided a system for speakers of all varieties of Luxembourgish to transcribe words the way they pronounced them, rather than imposing a single, standard spelling for the words of the language. The rules explicitly rejected certain elements of German orthography (e.g., the use of "ä" and "ö",[11] the capitalisation of nouns). Similarly, new principles were adopted for the spelling of French loanwords.

- fiireje, rééjelen, shwèzt, veinejer (cf. German *vorigen*, *Regeln*, *schwätzt*, *weniger*)
- bültê, âprê, Shaarel, ssistém (cf. French *bulletin*, *emprunt*, *Charles*, *système*)

This proposed orthography, so different from existing "foreign" standards that people were already familiar with, did not enjoy widespread approval.

A more successful standard eventually emerged from the work of the committee of specialists charged with the task of creating the *Luxemburger Wörterbuch*, published in 5 volumes between 1950 and 1977. The orthographic conventions adopted in this decades-long project, set out in Bruch (1955), provided the basis of the standard orthography that became official on 10 October 1975.[12] Modifications to this standard were proposed by the *Permanent Council of the Luxembourguish language* and adopted officially in the spelling reform of 30 July 1999.[13] A detailed explanation of current practice for Luxembourgish can be found in Schanen & Lulling (2003).

Alphabet

The Luxembourgish alphabet consists of the 26 Latin letters plus three letters with diacritics: "é", "ä", and "ë". In loanwords from French and Standard German, other diacritics are usually preserved:

- French: *Boîte*, *Enquête*, *Piqûre*, etc.
- German: *blöd*, *Bühn* (but German *Bühne*), etc.

Orthography of vowels

Monophthongs		
Spelling	**IPA**	**Example**
a	ɑ	K**a**pp
	aː	K**a**p

Diphthongs		
Spelling	**IPA**	**Example**
ai	ɑɪ̯	Geb**ai**
ei		d**ei**er

r-vocalization		
Spelling	**IPA**	**Example**
ar	aː	D**ar**
aar		**aar**m

aa		naass	äi	æːɪ	räich	är	ɛːɐ̯	Stär	
ä	æ	Käpp	au[b]	ɑʊ̯	Mauer	äer		Päerd	
e		Decken		æːʊ̯	Maul	er	ɐ	aner	
	ə	liesen	éi	əɪ̯	Schnéi	ir	iːɐ̯	Stir	
ë		hëllefen	ie	iɐ̯	liesen	ier		Hiert	
é[a]	e	drécken	ou	əʊ̯	Schoul	or	oːɐ̯	Gefor	
ee	eː	Been	ue	uɐ̯	Buedem	oer		Joer	
i	i	Gitt				ur	uːɐ̯	Bur	
	iː	siwen				uer		Wuerm	
ii		Kiischt							
o	o	Sonn							
	oː	droleg							
oo		Sprooch							
u	u	Hutt							
	uː	Tut							
uu		Luucht							

Eifeler Regel

Like many other varieties of Western High German, Luxembourgish has a rule of final *n*-deletion in certain contexts. The effects of this rule (known as the "Eifel Rule") are indicated in writing, and therefore must be taken into account when spelling words and morphemes ending in ⟨n⟩ or ⟨nn⟩. For example:

- *wa**nn** ech ginn* "when I go", but *wa mer ginn* "when we go"
- *fënnefa**n**drësseg* "thirty-five", but *fënnefavéierzeg* "forty-five".

Phonology

Consonants

The consonant inventory of Luxembourgish is quite similar to that of Standard German.[14]

0:00 / 0:00

Spoken Luxembourgish

Consonant phonemes of Luxembourgish[14]

		Labial	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Dorsal	Glottal
Nasal		m	n		ŋ	
Plosive	**fortis**	p	t		k	
	lenis	b	d		g	
Affricate	**voiceless**	(p͡f)	t͡s	t͡ʃ		
	voiced		(d͡z)	(d͡ʒ)		
Fricative	**voiceless**	f	s	ʃ	χ	h
	voiced	v	z	ʒ	ʁ	
Trill					ʀ	
Approximant			l		j	

- /p͡f/ occurs only in loanwords from Standard German.[15] Just as for many native speakers of Standard German, it tends to be simplified to [f] word-initially. For example, *Pflicht* ('obligation') is realised as [fliɕt] or, in careful speech, [p͡fliɕt].
- /v/ is realised as [w] when it occurs after /k, t͡s, ʃ/, e.g. *zwee* [t͡sweː] ('two').[16]
- /d͡z/ appears only in a few words, such as *spadséieren* /ʃpɑˈd͡zəɪ̯eʀen/ ('to go for a walk').[15]
- /d͡ʒ/ occurs only in loanwords from English.[15]
- /χ, ʁ/ have two types of allophones: alveolo-palatal [ɕ, ʑ] and uvular [χ, ʁ]. The latter occur before back vowels, and the former occur in all other positions.[17]
  - The [ʑ] allophone appears only in a few words, and speakers increasingly fail to distinguish between the alveolo-palatal allophones of /χ, ʁ/ and the postalveolar phonemes /ʃ, ʒ/.[18]
- Younger speakers tend to vocalize a word-final /ʀ/ to a central vowel [ə] or [ɐ].[17]

Vowels

Monophthong phonemes[19]

	Front				Back	
	unrounded		**rounded**			
	short	**long**	**short**	**long**	**short**	**long**
Close	i	iː	(y)	(yː)	u	uː
Close-mid		eː		(øː)		oː
Open-mid	e		(œ)	(œː)	o	
Open	æ	aː			ɑ	

- The front rounded vowels /y, yː, øː, œ, œː/ appear only in loanwords from French and Standard German. In loanwords from French, nasal /õː, ɛ̃ː, ɑ̃ː/ also occur. [15]
- /e/ has two allophones:
  - Before velars: close-mid front unrounded [e],[19][20], which, for some speakers, may be open-mid [ɛ], especially before /ʀ/. The same variation applies to /o/(except that it is back rounded.[19]

- All other positions: mid central vowel, more often slightly rounded [ə̹] than unrounded [ə].[19]
- Phonetically, the long mid vowels /eː, oː/ are raised close-mid (near-close) [e̝ː, o̝ː] and may even overlap with /iː, uː/.[19]
    - /eː/ before /ʀ/ is realised as [ɛː].[19]
- /aː/ is the long variant of /ɑ/, not /æ/, which does not have a long counterpart.

Diphthong phonemes[21]

	Ending point		
	Front	**Central**	**Back**
Close		iə uə	
Mid	əɪ (oɪ)		əʊ
Open	æːɪ ɑɪ		æːʊ ɑʊ

- /oɪ/ appears only in loanwords from Standard German.[15]
- The first elements of /æːɪ, æːʊ/ may be phonetically short [æ] in fast speech or in unstressed syllables.[21]
- The /æːɪ–ɑɪ/ and /æːʊ–ɑʊ/ contrasts arose from the former lexical tone contrast; the shorter /ɑɪ, ɑʊ/ were used in words with Accent 1, and the lengthened /æːɪ, æːʊ/ were used in words with Accent 2.[22]

Grammar

Nominal syntax

Luxembourgish has three genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter), and has three cases (nominative, accusative, and dative). These are marked morphologically on determiners and pronouns. As in German, there is no morphological gender distinction in the plural.

The forms of the articles and of some selected determiners are given below:

nominative/accusative						dative				
	singular			**plural**			**singular**			**plural**
	masculine	**neuter**	**feminine**				**masculine**	**neuter**	**feminine**	
definite	den	d'	d'	d'		**definite**	dem		der	den
def. emphatic	deen	dat	déi	déi		**def. emphatic**	deem		där	deenen
demonstrative	dësen	dëst	dës	dës		**demonstrative**	dësem		dëser	dësen
indefinite	en	en	eng	(eng)		**indefinite**	engem		enger	(engen)
negative	keen	keen	keng	keng		**negative**	kengem		kenger	kengen
"his/its"	säin	säin	seng	seng		**"his/its"**	sengem		senger	sengen
"her/their"	hiren	hiert	hir	hir		**"her/their"**	hirem		hirer	hiren

As seen above, Luxembourgish has plural forms of *en* ("a, an"), namely *eng* in the nominative/accusative and *engen* in the dative. They are not used as indefinite articles, which—as in German and English—do not exist in the plural, but they do occur in the compound pronouns *wéi en* ("what, which") and *sou en* ("such"). For example: *wéi eng Saachen* ("what things"); *sou eng Saachen* ("such things"). Moreover, they are used before numbers to express an estimation: *eng 30.000 Spectateuren* ("some 30,000 spectators").

Distinct nominative forms survive in a few nominal phrases such as *der Däiwel* ("the devil") and *eiser Herrgott* ("our Lord"). Rare examples of the genitive are also found: *Enn des Mounts* ("end of the month"), *Ufanks der Woch* ("at the beginning of the week"). The functions of the genitive are normally expressed using a combination of the dative and a possessive determiner: e.g. *dem Mann säi Buch* (lit. "to the man his book", i.e. "the man's book"). This is known as a periphrastic genitive, and is a phenomenon also commonly seen in dialectal and colloquial German, and in Dutch.

The forms of the personal pronouns are given in the following table (unstressed forms appear in parentheses):

	nominative	accusative	dative
1sg	**ech**	**mech**	**mir** (mer)
2sg	**du** (de)	**dech**	**dir** (der)
3sgm	**hien** (en)		**him** (em)
3sgn	**hatt** (et)		
3sgf	**si** (se)		**hir** (er)
1pl	**mir** (mer)	**äis / eis**	
2pl	**dir** (der)	**iech**	
3pl	**si** (se)		**hinnen** (en)

The 2pl form is also used as a polite singular (like French *vous*, see T-V distinction); the forms are capitalised in writing:

> *Wéi hues **du** de Concert fonnt?* ("How did you [informal sg.] like the concert?")
> *Wéi hutt **dir** de Concert fonnt?* ("How did you [informal pl.] like the concert?")
> *Wéi hutt **Dir** de Concert fonnt?* ("How did you [formal sg. or pl.] like the concert?")

Like most varieties of colloquial German, but even more invariably, Luxembourgish uses definite articles with personal names. They are obligatory and not to be translated:

> **De** Serge ass an der Kichen. ("Serge is in the kitchen.")

A feature Luxembourgish shares with only some western dialects of German is that women and girls are most often referred to with forms of the *neuter* pronoun *hatt*:

> Dat ass d'Nathalie. **Hatt** ass midd, well **et** vill a **sengem** Gaart geschafft huet. ("That's Nathalie. She is tired because she has worked a lot in her garden.")

Adjectives

Luxembourgish morphology distinguishes two types of adjective: attributive and predicative. Predicative adjectives appear with verbs like *sinn* ("to be"), and receive no extra ending:

- De Mann ass grouss. (*masculine*, "The man is tall.")
- D'Fra ass grouss. (*feminine*, "The woman is tall.")
- D'Meedchen ass grouss. (*neuter*, "The girl is tall.")
- D'Kanner si grouss. (*plural*, "The children are tall.")

Attributive adjectives are placed before the noun they describe, and change their ending according to the grammatical gender, number, and case:

- de gross**e** Mann (*masculine*)
- déi grouss Fra (*feminine*)
- dat grouss**t** Meedchen (*neuter*)
- déi grouss Kanner (*plural*)

Curiously, the definite article changes with the use of an attributive adjective: feminine *d'* goes to *déi* (or *di*), neuter *d'* goes to *dat*, and plural *d'* changes to *déi*.

The <u>comparative</u> in Luxembourgish is formed analytically, i.e. the adjective itself is not altered (compare the use of *-er* in German and English; *tall → taller, klein → kleiner*). Instead it is formed using the adverb *méi*: e.g. *schéin → méi schéin*

- Lëtzebuerg ass méi schéi wéi Esch. ("Luxembourg is prettier than Esch.")

The <u>superlative</u> involves a synthetic form consisting of the adjective and the suffix *-st*: e.g. *schéin → schéin**st*** (compare German *schönst*, English *prettiest*). Attributive modification requires the emphatic definite article and the inflected superlative adjective:

- **dee** schéinst**e** Mann ("the most handsome man")
- **déi** schéinst Fra ("the prettiest woman")

Predicative modification uses either the same adjectival structure or the adverbial structure *am+ -sten*: e.g. *schéin → am schéinsten*:

- Lëtzebuerg ass dee schéinsten / deen allerschéinsten / am schéinsten. ("Luxembourg is the most beautiful (of all).")

Some common adjectives have exceptional comparative and superlative forms:

- gutt, besser, am beschten ("good, better, best")
- vill, méi, am meeschten ("much, more, most")
- wéineg, manner, am mannsten ("few, fewer, fewest")

Several other adjectives also have comparative forms. However, these are not commonly used as normal comparatives, but in special senses:

- al ("old") → *eeler* Leit ("elderly people"), but: *méi al* Leit ("older people, people older than X")
- fréi ("early") → de *fréiere* President ("the former president"), but: e *méi fréien* Termin ("an earlier appointment")
- laang ("long") → viru *längerer* Zäit ("some time ago"), but: eng *méi laang* Zäit ("a longer period of time")

Word order

Luxembourgish exhibits "verb second" word order in clauses. More specifically, Luxembourgish is a <u>V2</u>-<u>SOV</u> <u>language</u>, like German and Dutch. In other words, we find the following finite clausal structures:

- the finite verb in second position in declarative clauses and *wh*-questions

> Ech **kafen** en Hutt. Muer **kafen** ech en Hutt. (lit. "I buy a hat. Tomorrow buy I a hat.)

Wat **kafen** ech haut? (lit. "What buy I today?")

- the finite verb in first position in yes/no questions and finite imperatives

    Bass de midd? ("Are you tired?")
    Gëff mer deng Hand! ("Give me your hand!")

- the finite verb in final position in subordinate clauses

    Du weess, datt ech midd **sinn**. (lit. "You know, that I tired am.")

Non-finite verbs (infinitives and participles) generally appear in final position:

- compound past tenses

    Ech hunn en Hutt **kaf**. (lit. "I have a hat bought.")

- infinitival complements

    Du solls net esou vill Kaffi **drénken**. (lit. "You should not so much coffee drink.")

- infinitival clauses (e.g., used as imperatives)

    Nëmme Lëtzebuergesch **schwätzen**! (lit. "Only Luxembourgish speak!")

These rules interact so that in subordinate clauses, the finite verb and any non-finite verbs must all cluster at the end. Luxembourgish allows different word orders in these cases:

    Hie freet, ob ech **komme kann**. (cf. German *Er fragt, ob ich kommen kann.*) (lit. "He asks if I come can.")
    Hie freet, ob ech **ka kommen**. (cf. Dutch *Hij vraagt of ik kan komen.*) (lit. "He asks if I can come.")

This is also the case when two non-finite verb forms occur together:

    Ech hunn net **kënne kommen**. (cf. Dutch *Ik heb niet kunnen komen.*) (lit, "I have not be-able to-come")
    Ech hunn net **komme kënnen**. (cf. German *Ich habe nicht kommen können.*) (lit, "I have not to-come be-able")

Luxembourgish (like Dutch and German) allows prepositional phrases to appear after the verb cluster in subordinate clauses:

    alles, wat Der ëmmer wollt wëssen **iwwer Lëtzebuerg**
    (lit. "everything what you always wanted know about Luxembourg")

Vocabulary

Luxembourgish has borrowed many French words. For example, the name for a bus driver is *Buschauffeur* (also Dutch and Swiss German), which would be *Busfahrer* in German and *chauffeur de bus* in French.

Some words are different from Standard German but have equivalents in German dialects. An example is *Gromperen* (potatoes – German: *Kartoffeln*). Other words are exclusive to Luxembourgish.

Selected common phrases

🔊 Listen to the words below. *Note: Words spoken in sound clip do not reflect all words on this list.*

"Moien" ("Hello"): Sculpture (approx. 2 meters high) in the Justus-Lipsius building during the Luxembourgish EU-Presidency, first half of 2005

Dutch	Luxembourgish	Standard German	English
Ja.	Jo.	Ja.	*Yes.*
Nee(n).	Nee(n).	Nein.	*No.*
Misschien, wellicht	Vläicht.	Vielleicht.	*Maybe.*
Hallo, morgen	Moien.	Hallo. (also *Moin* in the north)	*Hello.*
Goedemorgen.	Gudde Moien.	Guten Morgen.	*Good Morning.*
Goedendag. or Goedemiddag.	Gudde Mëtteg.	Guten Tag.	*Good Afternoon.*
Goedenavond.	Gudden Owend.	Guten Abend.	*Good Evening.*
Tot ziens.	Äddi.	Auf Wiedersehen.	*Goodbye.*
Dank u. or Merci. (in Flanders)	Merci.	Danke.	*Thank you.*
Waarom? or Waarvoor? or Voor wat? (in Flanders)	Firwat?	Warum? or Wofür?	*Why*, *What for*
Ik weet het niet.	Ech weess net.	Ich weiß nicht.	*I don't know.*
Ik versta het niet.	Ech verstinn net.	Ich verstehe nicht.	*I don't understand.*
Excuseer mij. or Wablief? (in Flanders)	Watgelift? or Entschëllegt?	Entschuldigung?	*Excuse me?*
Slagerszoon.	Metzleschjong.	Metzgersohn. / Metzgerjunge.	*Butcher's son.*
Spreek je Duits/Frans/Engels?	Schwätzt dir Däitsch/Franséisch/Englesch?	Sprichst du Deutsch/Französisch/Englisch?	*Do you speak German/French/English?*
Hoe heet je?	Wéi heeschs du?	Wie heißt du?	*What is your name?*
Hoe gaat het?	Wéi geet et?	Wie geht's?	*How are you?*, *How is it going?*
Politiek Fatsoen.	Politeschen Anstand.	Politischer Anstand.	*Political Decency*
Zo.	Sou.	So.	*So.*
Vrij.	Fräi.	Frei.	*Free.*
Thuis.	Heem.	zu Hause. / Heim.	*Home.*
Ik.	Ech.	Ich.	*I.*
En.	An.	Und.	*And.*
Mijn.	Mäin.	Mein.	*My.*
Ezel.	Iesel.	Esel.	*donkey*, *ass.*
Met.	Mat.	Mit.	*With.*
Kind.	Kand.	Kind.	*Child.*
Weg.	Wee.	Weg.	*Way.*
Aardappel.	Gromper.	Kartoffel/Erdapfel.	*Potato.*
Brood.	Brout.	Brot.	*Bread.*

Neologisms

Neologisms in Luxembourgish include both entirely new words, and the attachment of new meanings to old words in everyday speech. The most recent neologisms come from the English language in the fields of telecommunications, computer science, and the Internet.

Recent neologisms in Luxembourgish include:[23]

- direct loans from English: *Browser*, *Spam*, *CD*, *Fitness*, *Come-back*, *Terminal*, *Hip*, *Cool*, *Tip-top*
- also found in German: *Sichmaschinn* (search engine, German: *Suchmaschine*), *schwaarzt Lach* (black hole, German: *Schwarzes Loch*), *Handy* (mobile phone), *Websäit* (webpage, German: *Webseite*)
- native Luxembourgish

  - *déck* as an emphatic like *ganz* and *voll*, e.g. *Dëse Kuch ass déck gutt!* ("This cake is really good!")
  - recent expressions, used mainly by teenagers: *oh mëllen!* ("oh crazy"), *en décke gelénkt* ("you've been tricked") or *cassé* (French for "(you've been) owned")

Academic projects

Between 2000 and 2002, Luxembourgish linguist Jérôme Lulling compiled a lexical database of 125,000 word forms as the basis for the very first Luxembourgish spellchecker (Projet C.ORT.IN.A).

The LaF (*Lëtzebuergesch als Friemsprooch* – Luxembourgish as a Foreign Language) is a set of four language proficiency certifications for Luxembourgish and follows the ALTE framework of language examination standards. The tests are administered by the Institut National des Langues Luxembourg.[24]

The "Centre for Luxembourg Studies" at the University of Sheffield was founded in 1995 on the initiative of Professor Gerald Newton. It is supported by the government of Luxembourg which funds an endowed chair in Luxembourg Studies at the university.[25] The first class of students to study the language outside of the country as undergraduate students began their studies at the 'Centre for Luxembourg Studies' at Sheffield in the academic year 2011–2012.

See also

- Erna Hennicot-Schoepges
- Literature of Luxembourg
- Luxembourgish Swadesh List
- Multilingualism in Luxembourg

Footnotes

a. Note that the letter ⟨é⟩ today represents the same sound as ⟨ë⟩ before ⟨ch⟩. The ostensibly inconsistent spelling ⟨é⟩ is based on the traditional, now widely obsolete pronunciation of the sound represented by ⟨ch⟩ as a palatal [ç]. As this consonant is pronounced further back in the mouth, it triggered the use of the front allophone of /e/ (that is [e]) as is the case before the velars (/k, ŋ/). Since the more forward alveolo-palatal [ɕ] has replaced the palatal [ç] for almost all speakers, the allophone [ə] is used as before any non-velar consonant. So the word *mécht* ('[he] makes'), which is now pronounced [məɕt], used to be pronounced [meçt]; this is the reason for the spelling. The spelling ⟨mëcht⟩, which reflects the contemporary pronunciation, is not standard.

b. In the standard orthography, /ɑʊ̯/ and /æːʊ̯/ are not distinguished; this is due to the conflicting use of ⟨äu⟩ in German words to indicate /oɪ̯/.

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External links

- Conseil Permanent de la Langue Luxembourgeoise (http://www.cpll.lu/)

Spellcheckers and dictionaries

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